

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted with a request for continuing examination. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown to their attorney, Karen Harding, during the February 27, 2007 telephone interview.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the process is a process for purifying at least one silicone containing monomer. Support for this amendment may be found at page 1, lines 4-5, and page 4, lines 23-27. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 13, 15 - 17, 18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bawa et al (US 6,071,439) taken in view of one or more of Nicholson et al (US5,760,100), Spinelli et al (US 5,371,147), Spinelli (US5,019,628, US4,810,756 or US4,810,756), and if necessary, in view of Pilat et al (US2,188,013).

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing rejection has been traversed by the present amendment. The claims as amended recite a process for purifying a silicone monomer of Formula I or II.

None of the references cited by Examiner disclose a method of purifying silicone containing *monomers* of any composition, let alone monomers of Formula I or II.

Bawa et al. discloses “a method of treating *contact lenses* made from polymerizable materials by providing supercritical fluids to the lenses.” Abstract. Thus, Bawa et al. discloses purifying polymeric contact lenses, not silicone containing monomers.

Pilat et al. discloses a “method of separating high molecular mixtures into portions of different properties by means of gaseous carbon dioxide”. Column 1, lines 29-31. There is no suggestion in Pilat et al. that the process be used to purify silicone monomers of the molecular weight (weight average molecular weight of less than about 2000, see page 2, lines 14-16, present specification) or formula recited in the present claims.

The remaining references disclose various materials which may be used to make contact lenses, but neither disclose nor suggest SCFE could be used to purify those materials.

Examiner has stated that the term “silicone containing monomer” can be interpreted to encompass completed ocular devices. Applicants respectfully disagree. The claims currently

recite that the silicone containing monomer is of Formula I or II. The monomers of Formula I and II do not encompass completed intraocular lenses or other medical devices. They are monomers of specified formulae. While these monomers may be included in a reaction mixture, once that mixture is polymerized to make a lens, the monomers react with the other components to form the polymeric lens.

III. Conclusions

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and arguments have traversed Examiner's rejections and objections. Withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 5, 2007